



**PATENT**  
**Docket No. 12475/50903**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPL. NO. : 09/709,170 CONFIRMATION NO. 4982  
INVENTORS : Raymond P. Warrell, et al  
FILED : November 10, 2000  
TC/A.U. : 1635  
EXAMINER : Terra C. Gibbs

DOCKET No : 12475/50903  
CUSTOMER NO.: 23838

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This paper is being filed in response to the Advisory Action dated March 26, 2004 to ensure that the amendments filed on March 15, 2004 (in response to the Office Action dated December 15, 2003) are entered. This paper meets the submission requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.114.

Applicants herewith respectfully request an interview with the Examiner before an Office Action is issued. Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the attorney of record to schedule an interview at the Examiner's convenience.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.

**Conclusion** begins on page 8 of this paper.